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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,268	01/18/2002	Sundeep Chandhoke	5150-58300	8985

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	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2192	

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/051,268	CHANDHOKE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chrystine Pham	2192	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _08 September 2005_.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1,4-28 and 31-45_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1,4-28 and 31-45_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _09/08/2005_.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since

this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the

fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous

Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's

submission filed on September 8th 2005 has been entered.

2.   Claims 1, 4-28, 31-45 remains pending. No claims have been amended.

3.   All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the

entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected

on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been

entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS**

ACTION IS MADE FINAL even though it is a first action after the filing of a

request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See

MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set

forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire

THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is

filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory

action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments filed September 8th 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As an initial matter, Applicant is primarily restating the same argument [that Limondin fails to disclose generating the graphical code **without direct user input**], which has been addressed in the Final Office Action dated June 3rd 2005. Accordingly, this argument will be readdressed as followed.

First of all, on page 15, second to last paragraph, the Applicant seems to suggest that the Examiner has improperly "equated both the sequence of operations and the graphical program to the same thing, i.e., Limondin's step program". It is submitted that claim 1 recites "automatically generating a **graphical program** to implement the **specified sequence of operations**" (Emphasis added). Needless to say, the graphical program is the equivalence of the sequence of operations. In other words, the graphical program is composed

of steps or operations that are implemented according to the specified sequence

of operations.

Second, on page 16 first paragraph, the applicant insists that "Limondin's

step program is created in response to direct user input" which contradicts claim

1, which recites that "automatically generating the graphical program comprising

generating graphical code in the graphical program without direct user input". It

should be noted that claim 1 recites "... automatically ... generating graphical

code ... *without direct user input*" **after** reciting "receiving user input ... specifying

sequence of operations ...". Thus, the claimed limitation "without direct user

input" in this context reads on – **with indirect** user input --. As has been

established in the Final Office Action dated June 3rd 2005, the step program is

composed of steps (i.e., software objects or C++ classes) (see at least *step*

program, steps, software objects, C++ classes col.4:25-67). Limondin

specifically states that the steps can be edited graphically using point-and-click

user interface and that the step program is displayed graphically in a tree control

window (col.4:25-67). FIG.2 of Limondin is user interface view of the step

program. Limondin further discloses the **individual step**

operation/functionality of the step program is represented by an **iconic picture**

(see at least *iconic picture, step operation, step program 100* col.5:37-40).

Limondin teaches the step program is created by having the user **graphically**

manipulating/editing the **step icons'** parameters (i.e., inputs and outputs) (see

at least *results, output, inputs, steps* col.4:42-50) and connections between the

icons and execution order (i.e., sequence)of the steps (i.e., operations) can also

be graphically defined by the user (see at least *execution order, step, attribute*

col.5:25-35). It is submitted that graphically manipulating step icons' inputs and

outputs is the equivalence of specifying a result (i.e., output) from one step (i.e.,

operation) as inputs to other steps. Thus, **graphically manipulating step**

icons' parameters is essentially part of **specifying the sequence of**

operations. True that Limondin's graphical step program is

created/implemented in response to the user input. However, the user input in

this case is only to graphically specify the sequence of operations **before** the

graphical code can be generated as recited in claim 1. In other words, there is

no direct user input (i.e., actual programming code) **during** the automatic

generation of the graphical code.

5.   In view of the fore going discussion, rejection of claims 1, 4-11, 18-28, 31-45

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and claims 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is considered

proper and maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

*(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under
section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by
another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent,
except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application
filed in the United States only if the international application designated the
United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English
language.*

7.   Claims 1, 4-11, 18-28, 31-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Limondin et al. (US 6226783), hereinafter, *Limondin et al..*

Claim 1

Limondin et al. teach a computer-implemented method (e.g., see *object oriented*

method col.2:59-65) for creating a graphical (i.e., graphical data flow) program (e.g., see

machine vision application col.1:15-35; see *structuring a software step program, vision*

applications, computer programs, user interfaces col.1:55-67; see *programs, graphical*

user interface col.2:1-3; see *user interface components, GUI* col.2:15-22; col.2:59-65;

see *STEPS, 100* FIG.2 & associated text; see FIG.6 & associated text; see FIGS.8A-8C

& associated text; see *step program, editor objects* col.7:35-44) based on a sequence

(i.e., prototype) (e.g., see *series of operations, "steps"* Abstract; see *set of operations,*

steps, sequence col.1:15-35; see *list of operations* col.3:1-10; see *step inputs* col.5:8-

13; see *execution order* col.5:20-35) that includes motion control (e.g., see *WarpStep*

122 FIG.2 & associated text; see *WARP 122* FIG.3 & associated text), machine vision

(e.g., see *VISION PROCESSOR BOARD* FIG.8A & associated text; see *machine vision*

application col.1:15-35; see *machine vision operations* col.1:55-67), and data (i.e.,

images, and measurement data) acquisition (DAQ) operations (i.e., functionality) (e.g.,

see *AcquireStep 112* FIG.2 & associated text; see *ACQUIRE 112* FIG.3 & associated

text; see *acquisition of an input image* col.1:15-35; see *feature extraction, features, size,*

area, length, distance col.1:15-35;), the method comprising:

- o means for displaying a graphical user interface (GUI) that provides GUI

  access to a set of operations (e.g., see *user interfaces* col.1:55-67; see

  step program, tree control window col.4:50-55; see *iconic picture,*

  individual step operation col.5:35-45; see FIG.2 & associated text; see

  editor objects, graphical view, step col.6:59-65), wherein the set of

  operations includes one or more motion control operations (e.g., see

  motion device col.3:15-27), one or more machine vision (i.e., image

  analyzing) operations (e.g., see *accelerated image processing* col.2:40-

  50), and one or more DAQ operations (e.g., see *AcquireStep 706a,*

  AcquireStep 706b FIG.9 & associated text; see *image acquisition* col.2:40-

  50);

- o means for receiving user input to the graphical user interface specifying

  the sequence of operations (e.g., see *series of operations, "steps"*

  Abstract; see *set of operations, steps, sequence* col.1:15-35; see *list of*

  operations col.3:1-10; see *step inputs* col.5:8-13; see *operator, user*

  interface control, step parameters, settings col.6:59-col.7:3), wherein the

  specified sequence of operations includes at least one motion control

  operation (e.g., see *WarpStep 122* FIG.2 & associated text; see *WARP*

122 FIG.3 & associated text), at least one machine vision operation (e.g.,

see *VISION PROCESSOR BOARD* FIG.8A & associated text; see

machine vision application col.1:15-35; see *machine vision operations*

col.1:55-67), and at least one DAQ operation (e.g., see *AcquireStep 112*

FIG.2 & associated text; see *ACQUIRE 112* FIG.3 & associated text; see

acquisition of an input image col.1:15-35; see *feature extraction, features,*

size, area, length, distance col.1:15-35;);

o means for storing the specified sequence of operations based on the user

   input (e.g., see *GUID, database* col.4:55-65; see *steps, data structure,*

   map col.6:34-40; see *step program, disk* col.10:5-17); and

o means for programmatically/automatically generating a graphical program

   to implement the specified sequence of operations, wherein said

   automatically generating the graphical program comprises generating

   graphical code in the graphical program without direct user input (e.g., see

   execution order, step, attribute col.5:25-35; see *step program, steps,*

   software objects, C++ classes col.4:25-67; see *iconic picture, step*

   operation, step program 100 col.5:37-40; col.2:59-67; col.4:34-67), and

   wherein the graphical code comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes

   (i.e., linking portions of graphical code wherein each portion of graphical

   code implements one of the operations in the sequence) which visually

   indicate the functionality of the graphical program that visually indicate

   functionality of the graphical program (e.g., see *software objects, steps,*

connection, inputs, outputs col.2:59-65; see *STEPS, 100* FIG.2 &

associated text; see *STEPS, 706a, 706b, 714* FIG.9 & associated text;

see *steps, datum objects* col.4:34-42; see *iconic picture, individual step*

operation col.5:35-45; see FIG.2 & associated text).

Claim 4

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach

further comprising: executing the graphical program to perform (i.e., affect an action

which operation is operable to perform) the sequence of operations (e.g., see *target*

processor, user program Abstract; col.2:30-35; see *execution, program* col.2:40-50; see

steps, operations col.2:59-67; see *execution order* col.5:20-35; col.10:4-10).

Claim 5

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach

wherein the graphical program includes a block diagram portion (e.g., see *software*

objects, steps, tree structure col.4:25-31; see *STEPS 100* FIG.2 & associated text) and

a user interface panel portion (e.g., see *step program, tree control window* col.4:50-55;

see FIG.2 & associated text).

Claim 6

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claim 1, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 1.

Claim 7

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach wherein said programmatically generating the graphical program comprises including one or more nodes in the graphical program corresponding to the operations in the sequence (e.g., see *iconic picture, individual step operation* col.5:35-45; see FIG.2 & associated text; see *step code, object functions* col.10:9-17).

Claim 8

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claim 3, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 3.

Claim 9

The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach wherein each portion of graphical code includes one or more graphical program nodes, wherein each node has one or more inputs or outputs (e.g., see *IN DATA 510, 512, 514, OUT DATA 234, 236, 238* FIG.5 & associated text;); wherein generating each portion of graphical code comprises connecting the node inputs and outputs together in

order to implement the operation with which the portion of graphical code is associated

(e.g., see *STEP OBJECT 200* FIG.5 & associated text; see *connection of inputs to*

outputs at each step col.2:59-65; see *inputs, outputs, operation, step* col.3:1-11).

Claim 10

The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach

wherein linking a first portion of graphical code to a second portion of graphical code

comprises connecting an output of a node in the first portion of graphical code to an

input of a node in the second portion of graphical code (e.g., see *connection of inputs to*

outputs, between steps col.2:59-65; see *results, output, inputs, one step, other steps*

col.4:42-50).

Claim 11

The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teaches

further comprising: for each operation in the sequence, retrieving information associated

with the operation from a database; wherein generating the portion of graphical code

that implements a particular operation utilizes the database information retrieved for the

particular operation (e.g., see *recipe database* col.2:1-6; see *GUID, database* col.4:55-

65).

Claim 18

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach wherein said receiving user input to the graphical user interface specifying a desired sequence of operations does not include receiving user input specifying programming language code to implement the sequence of operations (e.g., see *user programs, computer language, programming language* Abstract; see *drop-in functionality, language independent software components* col.1:55-67; see *program, point and click graphical user interface* col.2:1-6).

Claim 19

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach wherein the sequence is operable to perform one or more (i.e., two) of:

o control motion of a device (e.g., see *motion device, moving camera* col.3:15-27);

o analyze acquired images (e.g., see *acquisition of an input image* col.1:15-35; see *accelerated image processing, image acquisition* col.2:40-50; see *camera images* col.4:15-22; see FIG.9 & associated text; see FIG.3 & associated text; see *acquisition of an image* col.5:60-65; see *camera images* col.7:64-67); and

o acquire measurement data (e.g., see *acquisition of an input image* col.1:15-35; see *feature extraction, features, size, area, length, distance* col.1:15-35; see *distance, features* col.4:15-22; see FIG.9 & associated text; see *camera images, distance between features* col.7:64-67; col.9:5-25).

Claims 20-23

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. Claims recite limitations, which have been addressed in claims1, 4, 18, 19, therefore, are rejected for the same reasons as cited in claims 1, 4, 18, 19.

Claim 24

The rejection of base claim 22 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach further comprising: for each operation to be configured, displaying a graphical panel including graphical user interface elements for setting properties of the operation and receiving user input to the graphical panel to set one or more properties of the operation (e.g., see *user interface components, GUI, setting of parameters* col.2:15-22; see *parameters, inputs, outputs* col.3:1-15; col.4:55-65).

Claims 25-27

Claims recite limitations, which have been addressed in claim 1, therefore, are rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 1.

Claim 28

Claim recites a memory medium comprising program instructions executable (e.g., see *step program, disk* col.10:5-17) for performing the method addressed in claim 1, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 1.

Claims 31-36

Claims recite limitations, which have been addressed in claims 1-4, 19, and 20,

therefore, are rejected for the same reasons as cited in claims 1-4, 19, and 20.

Claim 37

Limondin et al. teach a system (e.g., see FIGS.8A-8C & associated text) for

creating a graphical program based on a sequence that includes motion control,

machine vision, and data acquisition (DAQ) operations (see claim 1), the system

comprising:

- o a processor (e.g., see *target processor* Abstract);

- o a memory storing program instructions (e.g., see *step program, disk* col.10:5-17);
     and

- o a display device (e.g., see FIG.2 & associated text);

- o wherein the processor is operable to execute the program instructions stored in
     the memory to:

     - o display a graphical user interface (GUI) on the display device that provides

          access to a set of operations, wherein the set of operations includes one

          or more motion control operations, one or more machine vision

          operations, and one or more DAQ operations (see claim 1);

     - o receive user input to the graphical user interface specifying the sequence

          of operations, wherein the specified sequence of operations includes at

          least one motion control operation, at least one machine vision operation,

          and at least one DAQ operation (see claim 1);

o store the specified sequence of operations based on the user input (see

claim 1); and

o programmatically/automatically generate a graphical program to

implement the specified sequence of operations, wherein, in automatically

generating the graphical program, the program instructions are executable

to generate graphical code in the graphical program without direct user

input, wherein the graphical code comprises a plurality of interconnected

nodes which visually indicate the functionality of the graphical program

(see claim 1).

Claim 38

The rejection of base claim 37 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* further teach

further comprising:

o a motion control device (e.g., see *motion device, moving camera* col.3:15-27; see

Calibrate col.7:19-50);

o an image acquisition device (e.g., see *acquisition of an input image* col.1:15-35);

and

o a data acquisition device (e.g., see *acquisition of an input image* col.1:15-35);

o wherein the processor is operable to execute the graphical program to:

o control the motion control device to move an object (e.g., see *WarpStep*

122 FIG.3 & associated text; see *WarpPart, move the image* col.7:19-50);

o   control the image acquisition device to acquire one or more images of the

object; and

o   control the data acquisition device to acquire measurement data of the

object.

Claim 39

Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claims 1, and 37,

therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claims 1, and 37.

Claims 40-45

Claims recite limitations, which are subcombinations that have been addressed

in claim 1, therefore, are rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed
or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the
subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject
matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made
to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was
made.*

8.   Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

unpatentable over *Limondin et al.* in view of McDonald et al. (US 5966532),

hereinafter, *McDonald et al..*

Claim 12

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.* do not expressly

disclose creating an association between the sequence and the graphical program,

modifying the sequence to create a new sequence in response to user input after said

creating the association, and modifying the graphical program according to the new

sequence to create a new graphical program. However, *McDonald et al.* disclose:

- o   creating an association between the sequence and the graphical program (e.g.,

   see *212* FIG.2 & associated text; see *212* FIG.4 & associated text; see

   association, control, graphical code portion col.5:10-25; col.3:60-col.4:20; col.4:1-

   10),

- o   modifying the sequence to create a new sequence in response to user input after

   said creating the association (e.g., see *226-230* FIG.3 & associated text; see *228*

   FIG.4 & associated text; col.5:20-45), and

- o   modifying the graphical program according to the new sequence to create a new

   graphical program (e.g., see *226-230* FIG.3 & associated text; see *230* FIG.4 &

   associated text).

Limondin et al. and *McDonald et al.* are analogous art because they are both directed to

generating graphical program based on user inputs specifying data acquisition

operations. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *McDonald et al.* into that of *Limondin et al.* for the inclusion of creating an association between the sequence and the graphical program, modifying the sequence, and modifying the graphical program to create new graphical program. And the motivation for doing so would have been to facilitate changes or updates to graphical code portions and accordingly, the associations between user inputs (i.e., graphical icons representing corresponding operations) and the aforementioned graphical code portions, thus, providing an improved graphical programming environment where the user has ultimate programming control over the how the graphical programs are generated or defined based input sequences received through a GUI (see *McDonald et al.* col.3:35-57; col.11:55-63; col.13:42-58; col.14:25-42).

Claim 13

The rejection of base claim 12 is incorporated. *Limondin et al.   McDonald et al.* further teach

- o wherein said modifying the graphical program according to the new sequence uses the association between the sequence and the graphical program (e.g., see *224* FIG.3 & associated text; see *282, 284* FIG.6 & associated text; col.6:1-10);

- o wherein the association remains between the new sequence and the new graphical program (e.g., see *288* FIG.6 & associated text). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *McDonald et al.* into that of *Limondin et al.*. And the motivation for doing so would have been that which has been recited in claim 12.

Claim 14

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. *McDonald et al.* further teach further comprising:

- o creating an association between the sequence and the graphical program (see claim 12); and
- o locking the association between the sequence and the graphical program, wherein said locking prevents user editing of the graphical program (e.g., see *locking prevents user editing* col.5:10-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *McDonald et al.* into that of *Limondin et al.*. And the motivation for doing so would have been that which has been recited in claim 12.

Claim 15

The rejection of base claim 14 is incorporated. *McDonald et al.* further teach further comprising:

- o unlocking the association between the sequence and the graphical program in response to user input after said locking (e.g., see *262* FIG.5 & associated text);

- o directly changing the graphical program in response to user input after said unlocking (e.g., see *266* FIG.5 & associated text). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *McDonald et al.* into that of *Limondin et al.*. And the motivation for doing so would have been that which has been recited in claim 12.

Claim 16

The rejection of base claim 15 is incorporated. *McDonald et al.* further teach wherein said unlocking removes the association between the sequence and the graphical program (e.g., see *264* FIG.5 & associated text). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *McDonald et al.* into that of *Limondin et al.*. And the motivation for doing so would have been that which has been recited in claim 12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of *McDonald et al.* into that of *Limondin et al.*. And the motivation for doing so would have been that which has been recited in claim 12.

Claim 17

The rejection of base claim 14 is incorporated. *McDonald et al.* further teach

further comprising:

- o modifying the graphical program in response to user input after said generating

  the graphical program and after said creating the association between the

  sequence and the graphical program (e.g., col.5:10-62);

- o determining if an association exists between the sequence and the graphical

  program in response to said modifying the graphical program (e.g., see *224*

  FIG.3 & associated text; see *wizard* col.5:35-40); and

removing the association between the sequence and the graphical program in response

to said modifying (e.g., col.5:47-63; see *breaks the association* col.6:5-10). It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention

was made to incorporate the teaching of *McDonald et al.* into that of *Limondin et al..*

And the motivation for doing so would have been that which has been recited in claim

12.

Conclusion

9.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Chrystine Pham whose telephone number is 571-

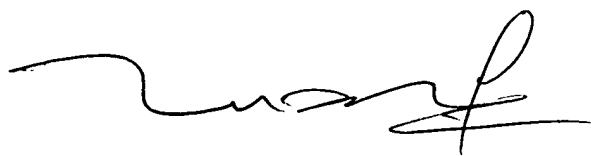272-3702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CP
November 16, 2005

TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER